

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application.
Claims 19-23 have been cancelled.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited.
An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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BC/bam
Attachments

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A saw apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 3,~~ claim 1, wherein there is further provided blade depth adjusting means for adjusting the depth of said blade relative to said base member.

5. (Amended) A saw apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 4,~~ claim 1, wherein said saw bench comprises two inclined support means for supporting a length of material along a support plane, said support means being inclined relative to each other, and being inclined to a horizontal plane.

6. (Amended) A saw apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 5,~~ claim 1, wherein said feed device comprises:

a conveyer belt suspended between belt support rollers which are rotatably mounted on a base structure, at least one of said rollers being adapted for connection to drive means for driving said conveyer belt, and

clamping means mounted relative to said base structure for clamping a member to be fed against an outer peripheral surface of said conveyer belt.

8. (Amended) A saw apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 7,~~claim 1, further comprising saw dust removing means comprising: an intake located relative to a saw blade of said circular saw blade assembly in the vicinity of teeth exiting from a cut, and a suction duct connected to said intake for drawing air in through said intake, wherein said suction duct constitutes a hollow support member of said circular saw blade assembly.

9. (Amended) A saw apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 8,~~claim 1, further comprising discharge means for discharging material that has been cut, to below a feed path, said discharge means comprising a minor support device mounted on a frame by linear bearings so as to be movable sideways.

11. (Amended) A saw apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 10,~~claim 1, further comprising outfeed means for supporting and stacking long lengths of wood as they are discharged after being cut.

13. (Amended) A method of operating a saw apparatus according to ~~any one of claim 1 through claim 12,~~claim 1, said method involving the steps of:

programming a computer with details of cutting requirements, and dimensions of material to be cut;

setting components of said saw apparatus to initial positions including setting said saw blade at a predetermined angle;

feeding a length of material to be cut to said feed means;

operating a clamping actuator of said feed means to clamp said length of material;

feeding said length of material to a cutting region;

synchronously operating a transverse drive motor of said base member and a feed drive motor of said feed means so as to cut said material at a desired angle; and

releasing said clamping actuator.

ABSTRACT

A saw apparatus (10) comprises: a saw bench (12) having a major support device (14) and a minor support device (16) comprising respective rows of rollers (14a, 14b and 16a), for supporting a length of material to be cut on a plane of the saw bench (12); a feed device (18) for feeding a length of material to be cut in a direction of feed Y relative to the saw bench (12), while being supported by the saw bench (12), and while the length of material is being cut, and a circular saw blade assembly (50) comprising: a base member (52) mounted relative to the saw bench (12) so as to be movable in a transverse direction X across the direction of feed Y, and a blade drive assembly (54) for rotatably mounting a circular saw blade (56) on the base member (52) at a predetermined angle α relative to the transverse movement direction X of the base member (52) in the plane of the saw bench (12).